

families  
f soldiers  
sit troops

By Dave Kolpack  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ARGO, N.D. — When  
tly activated North Dakota  
nal Guard unit got three  
off from its training in  
ado, family members back  
knew what to do: About  
them boarded two buses  
5-hour trip to visit the

ve been double-fisting  
the cell phone and my  
phone trying to make  
gements," said Tammy  
who runs the volunteer  
y support group for the  
Dakota guard's 142nd  
eer Battalion and helped  
ize the trip to Fort Carson.

was a fitting scene for fam-  
n North Dakota. The state  
ad a higher percentage of  
ry-age residents, ages 18  
called from the reserves to  
duty or placed on alert  
any other state, according  
Associated Press analysis  
tagon figures.

North Dakota's 386,873  
ry-age residents, 1,495  
nal Guard and Reserve sol-  
have been told to report.  
tagon said. That's a rate  
6 soldiers per 10,000.

I'm anxious to see  
Colorado], but I'm  
ore anxious to see  
my dad."

— Tyler Matthys  
son of soldier

North Dakota is followed by  
District of Columbia,  
Mississippi, Utah, Alabama,  
Dakota, West Virginia,  
rare, Nebraska and South  
na.

out 645 of the 700 soldiers  
ne Fargo-based 142nd  
eer Battalion were placed  
ive duty last month, the  
t call-up in North Dakota.  
42nd handles general com-  
on — everything from  
try to building roads and  
ps.

ong those making the bus  
o Fort Carson over the  
nd was the Matthys fam-  
-year-old Austin, 12-year-  
yler and mom Vicky —  
to see Lowell Matthys,  
in the 142nd's personnel  
ment.

Matthys family had  
een to Colorado.  
n anxious to see it," Tyler  
But I'm more anxious to  
dad."

ky Matthys said a friend  
ed her by picking up the  
f her tickets, about \$90

ve had so much support  
ne neighbors and others,"  
ys said, fighting back  
"My husband and I have  
een apart like this, ever."  
y and Robin Christians  
about 100 miles from  
n, Minn., to get on the

is bus trip is something  
we had to do. They are  
off to war."

NEWS IN BRIEF

prices up again

ARILLO, Calif. (AP) — Gas  
rose 7 cents per gallon  
e past two weeks push-  
ing prices to near record  
out the upward pressure  
ces may be easing, an  
analyst said Sunday.

verage weighted price for  
tionwide, including all  
and taxes, was approx-  
\$1.70 per gallon Friday,  
ng to the Lundberg  
of 8,000 stations nation-  
at price is within 7 cents  
77, the all-time high  
d by the survey on May  
1.

ne cost about \$1.63 a  
n Feb. 7, the date of the  
Lundberg Survey, an  
e of 11 cents over the  
s two-week survey.

# SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 7 • Monday, February 24, 2003

## Aggies dominate weekend tournament play

### Baseball team sweeps Sunday doubleheader

By Dallas Shipp  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M baseball team may as well have traveled north to play at Creighton in Omaha, Neb., after a cold front came blowing in Sunday night from the center field between game one against UCLA and game two versus Creighton.

Although the temperature dropped nearly 25 degrees between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m., the Aggies' bats remained hot and the A&M pitchers kept hitters from both UCLA and Creighton on their heels as the Aggies won both games by a score of 7-2.

"I was pleased with the way we came out and played today," said A&M Head Coach Mark Johnson. "We had strong defense and that was important."

Sophomore pitcher Logan Kensing started his second game of the season and had a strong outing.

He allowed two runs and just three hits to get his third win of the season.

Kensing got off to a slow start by hitting junior infielder Preston Griffin to lead off the game.

Griffin scored two batters later on a double by sophomore designated hitter Billy Siskarf.

The Aggies struck back quickly at the plate in the bottom of the second with three runs of their own, giving them a 3-1 lead after two innings.

The third inning belonged to junior center-fielder Justin Ruggiano.

In the top of the third, freshman infielder Brett McMillan sent a deep fly ball into the gap in right-center field that appeared to be impossible to catch. Ruggiano jumped into the air and came down with ball much to his surprise.

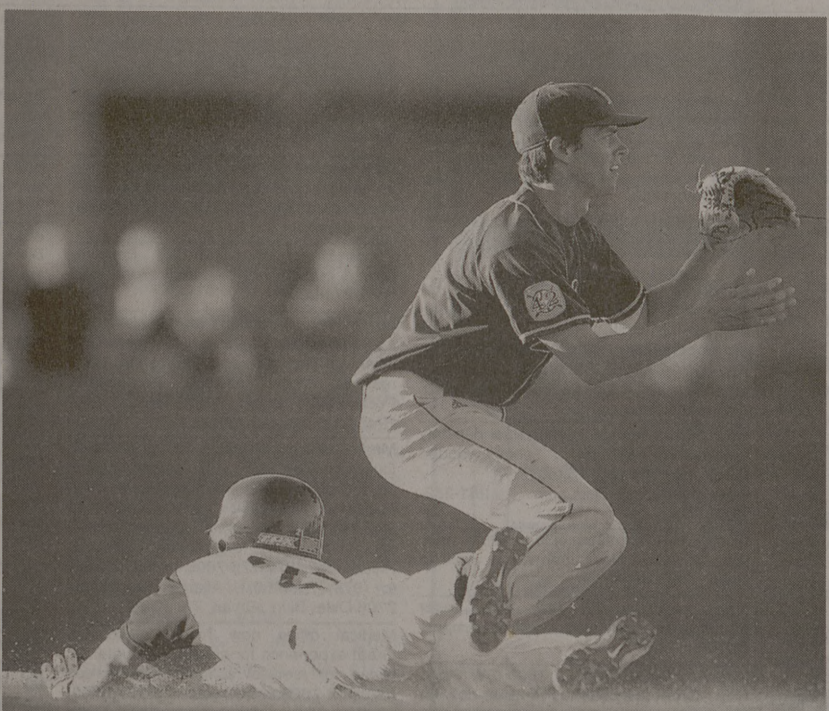
"I didn't think I had a chance," Ruggiano said. "I just jumped up and took a shot at it and things just fell right."

He wasn't done yet. In the bottom half of the inning, Ruggiano laced a double into the gap himself and scored on an RBI by junior outfielder Scott Beerer, increasing the Aggies lead to 4-1.

The Aggies added three more runs, including a solo home run by junior infielder Erik Schindewolf in the bottom of the fourth and a two run double by junior infielder Matt Alexander on a hit-and-run play that was executed to perfection by the Aggies, giving them the 7-2 win over the Bruins.

Junior pitcher Matt

See **Baseball** on page 8



Top: A&M outfielder Justin Ruggiano slides into second base during the first game of Sunday's doubleheader. The Aggies won both games. Bottom: Aggie catcher Selena Collins hits her sixth home run of the season against Prairie View A&M during the weekend. A&M defeated Prairie View twice in the tournament. Photos by John C. Livas, The Battalion

### Softball team collects four wins in tourney

By Pete Burks  
THE BATTALION

For the Texas A&M softball team, good things seem to come in pairs. On Sunday, the Aggies swept a doubleheader against Prairie View A&M University, 10-2 and 15-0. The two wins gave A&M another tournament championship, winning the second half of the St. Joseph Aggie Invitational.

The Aggies went 4-0 overall in the tournament, exploding offensively for 36 runs while using a stingy defense and dominating pitching to hold Wichita State University, the University of Southeastern Louisiana and Prairie View to a combined five runs. Taking all four games this weekend, the No. 19 Aggies improved their overall record to 12-6 and increased their home record to 10-1.

In the first game, the Aggies used dominant pitching performance from senior Lindsey Rippee. Rippee pitched a complete game, allowing two runs on five hits while striking out two. She also received offensive support from her team. The Aggies wasted no time in getting to work with their bats, pounding Prairie View starter Trisha Anderson for 10 runs, getting seven in the first three innings.

Senior shortstop Crystal

Martin, senior catcher Selena Collins and freshman Krisin Gunter led the Aggies' offensive bombardment adding a home run to their season totals. The Aggies were unstoppable offensively, as evidenced by winning the game by mercy rule.

The second time around for the Aggies and Panthers proved just as fruitful, as the Aggies mauled the Panthers again, 15-0, for their second consecutive win by mercy rule.

Again, Rippee stepped on the mound for the Aggies, shutting down the Panther offense to the tune of one hit and two strikeouts.

The Aggie offense came out with a vengeance, scoring each inning that they came up to bat. Martin and senior center fielder Cheryl Fowler helped lead the charge, scoring the first two runs of the game off of a string of consecutive hits.

In the second inning, Panthers' starter Jaime Cain could do no better, wilting before an offensive barrage from A&M led by Collins. Fowler knocked in the first two runs with a bases-clearing double, paving the way for Collins to head to the plate. With two outs and a runner on, Collins hit a frozen rope line drive to the power alley in left-center

See **Softball** on page 8

**REC SPORTS**  
It's all about YOU!

**FEBRUARY 26-27**  
**Recreational Sports Fee Referendum**

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT RECREATION [recsports.tamu.edu](http://recsports.tamu.edu)

**VOTE! REC SPORTS FEE REFERENDUM**      **GET GOING WITH TAMU OUTDOORS**      **SPRING FUN WITH INTRAMURALS**

February 26-27 The Department of Recreational Sports will be going to the A&M student body asking for a referendum to increase the Recreational Sports Fee from \$78 to \$88. This \$10 increase per student, per semester is critical to the Department's ability to cover the cost of inflation in it's budget. But more importantly, it will allow the Department to create some exciting opportunities for the students of Texas A&M:

- Expand the Weight & Fitness Room
- Expand Penberthy Intramural Sports Center
- Increase Rec Sports student worker wages
- Hire a second Sport Club Coordinator (after hiring freeze is lifted)

Visit <http://recsports.tamu.edu> for a FAQ to answer all your questions. Voting will begin at 9:00 a.m. on February 26th and will end at 5:00 p.m. on February 27th. Students may vote on-line at [vote.tamu.edu](http://vote.tamu.edu) or at select sites on campus, including the Rec Center.

**LIVE THE EXCITEMENT WITH SPORTS CLUBS**

Women's Water Polo Texas Division Regional Championships at the Student Rec Center Natatorium March 1st and 2nd.

|           |                              |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| March 1st | TAMU vs. Rice @ 2:00 p.m.    |
|           | TAMU vs. UT @ 8:30 p.m.      |
| March 2nd | TAMU vs. Baylor @ 11:00 a.m. |
|           | TAMU vs. Trinity @ 3:00 p.m. |

**Upcoming Events**

| Event                  | Registration     | Event Date |
|------------------------|------------------|------------|
| Rock Climbing Day Trip | Jan. 21-Feb. 25  | March 1    |
| Horseback/Hiking Day   | Jan. 21-Feb. 25  | March 2    |
| Rock Climbing 201      | Jan. 21-March 19 | March 22   |
| Women's Rock Day Trip  | Jan. 21-March 18 | March 23   |
| Kayak Roll Clinic      | Jan. 21-March 24 | March 25   |

TAMU Outdoors is located behind the Rec Center, facing Olsen Field. Call 845-4511 for information.

**SPRING BREAK TRIPS**

- CLIMB HUACO TANKS**—Join TAMU Outdoors on a climbing adventure in one of the top US bouldering sites. Registration ends Feb. 27. \$265\*/\$318\*\*
- CANOE BIG BEND'S RIO GRANDE**—Canoe the scenic wilderness of the Rio Grande River, hike through side canyons, explore the desert and sleep under the stars. Registration ends Feb. 27. \$364\*/\$419\*\*
- HORSEBACK THE TEXAS FRONTIER**—Join TAMU Outdoors on this horseback adventure as we explore the Big Bend area. Registration ends Feb. 27. \$471\*/\$542\*\*

**SUMMER BREAK TRIPS**

- SEA KAYAK ALASKA**—Explore a portion of the northern wilderness—Alaska's Prince William Sound and Harriman Fjord. Registration ends April 1. \$1,765\*/\$1,950\*\*
- SAIL & SCUBA the Bahamas**—Sail on Blackbeard's cruise and trace the historic route of pirate ships and treasure galleons. Registration ends June 9. \$819

[recsports.tamu.edu](http://recsports.tamu.edu)

**Sports CLOSING:** 4-on-4 Flag Football Feb. 25 Cost \$20/team

**Sports OPENING:** Program Registration Cost  
Swim Meet Feb. 24-March 4 FREE

**GET FIT-FITNESS & CLASSES**

- FREE Healthy Living Lecture: EATING DISORDERS. Wednesday, February 26 at 5:30 p.m. in room 281 of the Rec Center. Learn how to approach someone with an eating disorder and how to prevent them from developing.
- FITNESS INSTRUCTOR TRAINING—Registration begins now for this 6 week program that starts March 18. Sign up at Member Services today.

**AQUATICS-MAKE A SPLASH**

- SPRINGBOARD DIVING—Don't miss out on this fun opportunity to improve your diving skills. Registration ends TODAY! Cost: \$25/\$35.

**WALK OF CHAMPIONS**

Make your mark on the A&M campus before you graduate! Aggies get your discounted Walk of Champions brick for \$100 before you leave Aggieland. For more information on ordering your personalized brick, visit our web site at <http://recsports.tamu.edu>. Order forms are available.